



City Manager's Office Weekly Update

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Greg Scoles, City Manager

Date: July 6, 2012

Dear Mayor and Council:

With the 4th of July falling on Wednesday of this week and with some of our staff taking advantage of some time off, there isn't a lot to report in this update. However, I did have a very productive meeting with the General Manager of Water District this week where we discussed how the City and the District could collaborate more effectively. As you know they have had some turnover of staff and the recently reported embezzlement of funds by one of their staff. I wanted them to know that if they need assistance, in any way, that Belmont is willing to help them. I think they are going to have us help them evaluate auditors for their annual reports. What was very clear in the meeting is that the City and the District have a good working relationship but that there are areas that could be improved.

The state Assembly voted yesterday to approve the High Speed Rail project funding that has been proposed by the Governor. The Senate is now scheduled to consider the funding plan sometime today. As it is currently configured the project would include around \$8.0 billion with approximately \$6.0 billion of that earmarked for the Central Valley. The remainder of the funding would include, among other things, the electrification of the existing Caltrain line through the Peninsula to allow for better coordination with the future High Speed Rail project. This action by the legislature just relates to the funding side of the project and does not address the project design. Caltrain is currently evaluating a couple of options related to the location of passing tracks, which as you know could have a significant impact on the City of Belmont. I don't think that this action still contemplates modifications/exemptions to CEQA for the project as it did previously. We will continue to keep our eye on this project should it move forward.

Thanks to a tip from one of our residents, the Police and Fire Departments were able to remove someone who was camping with an open fire on Sugarloaf Mountain. Apparently he had been living there for a number of months and had an established campsite. Since the property was on the boarder of Belmont and San Mateo a San

Mateo fire unit was called to the scene since they are equipped for brush fires and it is believed that the property was in San Mateo. Thanks to all that responded to this potentially dangerous situation. As Chief Fry said, "We were very fortunate that the wind didn't spread embers from one of the fire pits. With all of the dry brush and grass it could have been a tragedy."

Finally, we received a nice letter from the Superior Modular Transport, Inc., the company who has been moving the modular school buildings to the school projects in Belmont (see below), where they thanked our Police Department for their efforts to make this an efficient move. They noted that, "this is the first time we have had such an incredible team of officers to work with in the 20 years we've been in business." These moves occurred over a number of days and required advanced coordination with our Public Works and Police Departments. Thanks to all of those who were involved in making this a safe process.

I guess even in a short week there were some things to update you on. Have a great weekend.

Greg

Important Dates

- July 10th Regular Council Meeting
- July 24th Regular Council Meeting
- August 7th National Night Out
- August 14th Regular Council Meeting
- August 28th Council Summer Break (meeting cancelled)
- Sept. 11th Regular Council Meeting
- Sept. 25th Regular Council Meeting
- Sept. 28th Council of Cities Dinner/Meeting (Iron Gate, Belmont)

Leadership Redwood City/Belmont/San Carlos

Applications Now Being Accepted – Classes start in September!

The Redwood City – San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce is looking for new recruits for their Leadership Program for 2012-2013. The program is open to organizations, staff, and residents. If you know someone who would like to learn more about the community they live in then send them to the Chamber's website to apply:

<http://www.redwoodcitychamber.com/redwood-city-belmont-san-carlos-leadership-program.php>

Since 1989, The Leadership Redwood City/Belmont/San Carlos Program has been successfully educating participants on issues of vital concern to their city. This year, they

are looking for 40 new participants interested in gaining a broad understanding of their community while learning how to make a difference.

In dynamic sessions held **one Friday a month, September through June**, students will be given the opportunity to hear from key decision makers, business principals and local and state leaders. Leadership classes are the 2nd Friday of each month from 8:00am – 3:00pm. Locations vary each month and a continental breakfast and lunch are provided.

Follow the link above for the 2012 - 2013 Leadership Redwood City, Belmont, San Carlos Application and all the details and apply today.

Ralston Ranch Pump Station Repair

The Public Works crew will be pulling the pump at Ralston Ranch Pump Station Monday to have it rebuilt due to pump wear and damage. The pump station will be operating on one pump for approximately 5-7 days during repairs. The pump will be rebuilt by Koffler Electrical & Mechanical Repairs in San Leandro. Sewer maintenance staff will monitor the pump station in an ongoing effort to assure no problems arise.



Vine Street Sewer Repair

The City has contracted with J. Howard Engineering to perform the sewer repair work at the 1500 block of Vine Street. Staff has contacted each individual property owner about access and measures that will be taken to minimize impact to their properties during construction. The contractor began pipeline video on Thursday.



The project is scheduled to be completed by end of next week. Staff is negotiating with the insurance company for 1549 Vine Street for their fair share of the repair costs.

Carlmont Creek Dredging

The creek dredging at Carlmont Shopping Center will begin Monday, July 9, 2012. All work will be performed by PWD maintenance staff. Creek permits were issued by US Army Corp., Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Fish and Game. A biologist will be monitoring at site in case the California Red Legged Frog and San Francisco Dusky-Footed Wood Rat are sighted. The dredging will take approximately two working days. Staff has notified the shopping center owner for access through their parking lot.



Teen Center Partnership- Library and Parks and Recreation Department

The Teen Center had a very successful first year, where teens enjoyed the new design and bonded with Parks & Rec staff members, Jimmy, Stephen and Jen. At the end of the year, teens created good-bye cards for staff and hoped that they would return next year.

Here are the statistics from the year:

<u>Month:</u>	<u>Teen Attendance:</u>	<u>Days Open:</u>
September	577	16
October	671	20
November	641	19
December	525	16
January	380	11
February	581	18
March	639	20
April	480	16
May	637	21
June	125	4

Total Teen Attendance: 5,256

Total Days Open: 161

VOICES celebrated their year of volunteer services with a trip to Great America and an Appreciation Dinner. Parents mentioned they were happy with the way the program was picked up this year and the variety of service projects. VOICES finished their school year with their final service project on Thursday, May 24th with a Game Night at the senior center. 14 VOICES members participated in playing board games and just talking with a group of 11 seniors. Many of the teens had a great time, learned a lot more than they thought they would and one even mentioned that she would love to come back and play games with one couple because they were “so cool!” Staff looks forward to continuing the successful program again next year with the Library.

Arthritis Foundation Grant to the Senior Center

The Arthritis Foundation awarded the Twin Pines Senior and Community Center a grant for \$3,000 to conduct arthritis exercise programs. The programs will be taught with a certified instructor and include exercise classes to prevent arthritis in older adults and reduce the impact to those already suffering from the condition. The programs will be conducted in the community center and marketed through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Opposes Taxation of Digital Goods and Services Measure

The GFOA and other groups sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee opposing the Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 1860), a measure that would significantly reduce state and local revenues by preempting taxation of purchases such as downloaded music, movies, and online services. Despite the concerns expressed by the GFOA, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Governor’s Associations, and others, the House Judiciary approved the bill. The Senate companion measure (S. 971) has not yet been considered in committee.

[Click here for the GFOA letter to the Judiciary Committee.](#) Or see below.